



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2034

1 December 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General meets with United Nations staff in Benin; stresses need to reinforce cooperation between different components of United Nations system.
- In message for World AIDS Day, Secretary-General says Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS will strengthen national capacities to respond to pandemic.
- Secretary-General welcomes appointment of Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana as Secretary-General of NATO and Chairman of North Atlantic Council.
- General Assembly authorizes almost \$19 million for UNDOF for period 1 December 1995 to 30 June 1996; begins debate on situation in Middle East.
- Donors pledge more than \$37 million for 1996 programmes of Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in Near East.
- Administrative and Budgetary Committee recommends General Assembly authorize \$126 million for peace-keeping operations in former Yugoslavia and Haiti.
- Global treaty to regulate fishing on high seas to be opened for signature on Monday at special meeting of Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks.
- Fred Eckhard is appointed Focal Point for contacts with delegations in Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

Continuing his visit to Benin, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with United Nations representatives and staff in Cotonou. In an address, he underlined the importance of reinforcing cooperation between the different components of the United Nations system. Tomorrow, he will address the opening ceremony of the Sixth Francophone Summit.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The new Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UN-AIDS) will strengthen national capacities to respond to the pandemic, according to the Secretary-General. In a message on the occasion of World AIDS Day, he said the dangers and dimensions of the disease had yet to be fully grasped in many vulnerable parts of the world.

The Secretary-General noted that the United Nations was mandated to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of a social and humanitarian nature. UN-AIDS reflected that purpose and mission. It would bring together the skills, experience and expertise of the World Bank, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

"In my very first report as Secretary-General to the General Assembly, in 1992, I stressed that the United Nations must become an Organization which views social cooperation with the same sense of responsibility and urgency as political and security commitments," he said. "It must take full advantage of the central coordinating capacity available to it on humanitarian issues. It must be an Organization whose operational strength supports its policy objectives. UN-AIDS gives expression to that resolve."

* * *

The Secretary-General today welcomed the appointment of Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana as Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Chairman of the North Atlantic Council. He said he looked forward to continuing the relationship of close cooperation that existed between the two Organizations.

* * *

The General Assembly today authorized up to \$18.8 million gross (\$18.2 million net) for the United Nations Disengagement Force (UNDOF) on the Syrian Golan Heights for the period 1 December 1995 to 30 June 1996. It also allocated to UNDOF \$16.1 million gross (\$15.6 million net) that had previously been authorized and apportioned for the period 1 June to 30 November 1995.

The Assembly also began its debate on the situation in the Middle East, and three draft resolutions were introduced. By one draft, the Assembly would welcome the peace process and stress the need for rapid progress on the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations. Another draft would have the Assembly determine that Israel's decision to impose its laws and administration on Jerusalem was illegal and had no validity. By the third draft, the Assembly would demand that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967.

(more)

The representative of Israel invited Syria and Lebanon to stop hesitating and understand that through negotiations, peace could be achieved. Both needed peace as much as Israel and the rest of the Middle East, as that would promote security and development, he said.

* * *

Pledges worth more than \$37 million were announced yesterday for the 1996 programmes of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) at a meeting of the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to UNRWA. Announcements of contributions and support were made by representatives of 25 countries, as well as by the observers of the Holy See and Switzerland. The largest pledges were made by Norway (\$11 million), Netherlands (\$7.6 million), Germany (\$7 million) and Switzerland (\$4 million).

* * *

The General Assembly would authorize \$126 million gross for varying periods this month for peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia and Haiti, should it adopt two draft decisions approved by the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

The Assembly would authorize \$115.4 million gross (\$113.9 million net) for the period 1 to 31 December 1995 for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) and the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) headquarters. It would also authorize \$10.6 million gross (\$10.4 million net) for the period 1 to 15 December 1995 for the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). Both decisions would be taken on exceptional bases.

The Security Council yesterday extended the mandates of the three peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia. UNCRO's mandate will terminate after an interim period ending on 25 January 1996 or when the Council has decided on the deployment of a transitional peace-keeping force, whichever is sooner. UNPROFOR was extended for a two-month period until 31 January 1996, and UNPREDEP for a six-month period until 30 May 1996.

* * *

A global treaty to regulate fishing on the high seas will be opened for signature on Monday at a special meeting of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The Agreement will for the first time bind States to conserve and sustainably manage high-seas fisheries and to settle fishing disputes peacefully.

The treaty is titled the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions

(more)

of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Adopted by the Conference on 4 August, it includes ground-breaking provisions to ensure compatible conservation and management measures between high-seas areas and coastal zones under national jurisdiction. A major feature of the treaty is its "precautionary approach", by which States are obligated to act conservatively when there is doubt about the viability of stocks.

* * *

Fred Eckhard has left the Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General to take up a new assignment in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. As of today, Mr. Eckhard will be the Focal Point for contacts with delegations.

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2035

4 December 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Government of Rwanda declines to extend mandate of UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda.
- * European Union says New Agenda for Development of Africa in the 1990's reflects commitment of African countries and international community to promote sustainable development.
- * Secretary-General calls for physical, social and cultural barriers to disabled persons to be broken.
- * Secretary-General is in Cote d'Ivoire on final leg of visit to African states.
- * Lebanon says peace in Middle East region hinges on Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and Syria.
- * Religious tolerance is fundamental to human rights promotion, member States tell Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.
- * Sudanese Government eases ban on relief flights to the country.

* * *

The Government of Rwanda has informed the Secretary-General that it does not agree to an extension of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), beyond its current mandate which expires Friday, 8 December. However, the Government has indicated that it would be receptive to a continued United Nations presence, provided its purpose was to assist Rwanda in reconstruction and rehabilitation, including the provision of technical expertise, financial assistance and equipment.

The United Nations could stay in the country without the Government's approval, a United Nations spokesman said. It was thus the Secretary-General's intention to initiate the draw down of the operation as of 8 December. It was estimated that the withdrawal process would take two to three months to complete. He said the Secretary-General felt that the United Nations still had a useful role to play in political efforts in Rwanda. Mr. Boutros-Ghali recommended that the Organization should maintain a political

(more)

For information media—not an official record

4 December 1995

presence in Rwanda after the withdrawal of UNAMIR. A United Nations Office headed by a special representative could be established with a view to furthering the search for peace and stability through justice and reconciliation.

The Secretary-General suggested that the special representative would also continue to have overall authority for the coordination and expansion of the assistance that the United Nations and the international community were providing in support of Rwanda's reconstruction and rehabilitation effort, the spokesman said.

* * *

The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990's reflects the commitment of both African countries and the international community to enhance the partnership that could promote sustainable development. This could be achieved through the implementation of reforms leading towards a participatory political system and a market-oriented economy, the representative of Spain told the General Assembly today as it began discussion on the implementation of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990's.

Ambassador Arturo Laclaustra, speaking on behalf of the European Union said the New Agenda provided a framework for national action, including that carried out by the international system in Africa's development of its economic, social and environmental dimensions, which must continue to be a main goal for the United Nations system.

The representative of Ethiopia, speaking on behalf of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) said the continuous marginalization of Africa from the Globalization of the world economy dictated that the partnership of Africa and the international community must now be strengthened to implement the objectives of the New Agenda.

Earlier today, the General Assembly authorized \$115.4 million gross for the period 1 to 31 December for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters. In another action taken without a vote the Assembly authorized \$10.6 million gross for the period 1 to 15 December for the United Nations Mission in Haiti.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has called for the physical, social and cultural barriers to the participation of disabled persons in society to be broken. In a message on the occasion of the third International Day of Disabled Persons, observed yesterday, Sunday, the Secretary-General

(more)

said that resolution of the problems of disabled persons must be part of an overall strategy of fresh economic and social policies.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said while there was today, a greater awareness, understanding and recognition of the needs, potential and capabilities of disabled persons, much more remained to be achieved. He stressed that the role of the United Nations was to play a catalytic role, to build a common understanding, a shared vision and consensus on the further actions that were required.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has arrived in Cote d'Ivoire on the last leg of his African tour. A United Nations spokesman said the Secretary-General will participate in an award ceremony honouring former United States President Jimmy Carter and King Juan Carlos of Spain.

From Cote d'Ivoire, the Secretary-General will go to Geneva for an expanded meeting with his senior aides on Yugoslavia.

On Saturday, the Secretary-General delivered an address at the opening of the Sixth Francophone Summit in Cotonou, Benin. On Sunday 3 December, the fourth day of his visit to Benin, Mr. Boutros-Ghali participated in a two-hour debate with the President of France, Jacques Chirac and the President of Benin, Nicephore Soglo. He also had meetings with the Presidents of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and Mali as well as the Prime Ministers of Togo, Tunisia and Rwanda.

* * *

Peace in the Middle East depended on Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon and Syria, the representative of Lebanon has told the General Assembly. In a statement to the Assembly's debate on the situation in the Middle East, Samir Moubarak reaffirmed his country's commitment to the Middle East peace process. However, he said, for 17 years, Israel had refused to adhere to the 1978 Security Council resolution by ending its occupation of southern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, three draft resolutions were introduced in the Assembly on the situation on the Middle East. Under the terms of one draft introduced by the Russian Federation, Norway and the United States, the Assembly would welcome the peace process and stress the need for rapid progress on the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations. Another draft introduced by Morocco would have the Assembly determine that Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on Jerusalem was illegal and had no validity. And, under the third draft introduced by Egypt, the Assembly would demand that Israel withdraw from all the occupied areas of the Syrian Golan Heights to the line of 4 June 1967.

(more)

4 December 1995

The representative of Israel, Ambassador Gad Yaacobi said Syria and Lebanon should stop hesitating and understand that through negotiations, peace could be achieved. Syria and Lebanon needed peace as much as Israel and the rest of the Middle East, he said. Peace would allow them and the Israelis to invest in people instead of weapons, in security instead of war, in economy and development instead of confrontation. He said only through direct negotiations at the decision-making level, peace was achieved with Egypt and Jordan. That was also how understanding and agreements were achieved with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

* * *

Religious tolerance was fundamental to the promotion of human rights. That was the view expressed by many member States during consideration of questions relating to human rights in the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural). The representative of Ireland told the Committee that protection and promotion of human rights was the first responsibility of governments. Governments must ensure that their constitutional and legal systems provide strong and enforceable guarantees of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of religion or belief, he said. These must include adequate remedies for cases where these rights were violated. But legal guarantees, although essential, were not in themselves sufficient, he continued. It was particularly important that restrictions or limitations on human rights be kept to a minimum.

* * *

The Sudanese government has eased its ban on relief flights, according to a United Nations spokesman. The ban had been announced three weeks ago. Four Operation Lifeline Sudan flights to southern Sudan have been approved by the Sudanese authorities.

The Secretary-General on Sunday issued an appeal calling on all the parties to the conflict to take the necessary steps to allow access to innocent victims of the conflict under the agreed Operation Lifeline Sudan principle. Since 23 November, increased fighting in southern Sudan had severely hampered humanitarian relief operations. The Sudanese Government decisions to restrict relief flights into different locations within southern Sudan, had led to an effective cessation of relief operations and put at risk the safety of humanitarian workers. Over four million people benefitting from the United Nations-led relief operation, Operation Lifeline Sudan, were now increasingly vulnerable to disease and malnutrition.

In his statement, the Secretary-General had regretted the decision of the Sudanese Government.

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2036

5 December 1995

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- * Secretary-General cautions that peace is not simply the absence of war.
- * General Assembly demands Israel withdraw from occupied Syrian Golan.
- * Agreement on conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks opens for signature.
- * Tenth International Volunteers day is observed.
- * United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Development Programme sign agreement for cooperation in capacity-building.
- * Up to 1,500 animal breeds are at risk, FAO warns.

* * *

Peace could only be achieved and consolidated through development and democratization, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told an award ceremony in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire. Peace he said was not simply the absence of war. In his statement at the ceremony the Secretary-General said peace demanded solidarity and continuity, adding that the United Nations was an irreplaceable instrument for promoting peaceful relations among peoples. He said peace depended on the political will of States and on the dedication of all people of goodwill to its service. The Secretary-General pointed out that the world was now entering a new phase in history, saying the global society in which we live, required us to embrace a noble ideal of peace.

During the ceremony, former United States President Jimmy Carter and King Juan Carlos I of Spain were presented with UNESCO's 1994 Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize for their efforts at reconciling peoples, States and nations.

* * *

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The General Assembly has demanded that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967. In a resolution adopted Monday afternoon, by a vote of 66 in favour to 2 against (Israel and the United States), with 79 abstentions, the Assembly determined once more that the continued occupation of that area and its de facto annexation constituted a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

In another resolution adopted by a vote of 133 in favour to 1 against (Israel) with 11 abstentions, the Assembly determined that the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the holy city of Jerusalem was illegal and had no validity. The Assembly also deplored the transfer by some States of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem in violation of Security Council resolutions.

* * *

Twenty-five countries have signed an agreement on the conservation and management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The Agreement -- entitled Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks -- will for the first time bind States to conserve and sustainably manage high-seas fisheries and to settle fishing disputes peacefully.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a statement to the Conference made on his behalf by the United Nations Legal Counsel Hans Corell, said the Agreement was significant and noteworthy in many aspects. While reinforcing the obligation of States to conserve and manage the fishery resources in a responsible manner in areas under their national jurisdiction and on the high seas, it called for effective enforcement on the high seas not only by the flag State, but also by non-flag States under certain circumstances. It was also noteworthy for its adoption of the "precautionary approach".

Conference Chairman Satya Nandan of Fiji said the Agreement, which contained principles that were on the cutting edge of fisheries management, was already having an impact in the work of regional fisheries organizations, and was being used in bilateral negotiations on fisheries management. In time, the treaty would help avert the major world fisheries crisis to which the world was headed.

The Agreement included ground-breaking provisions to ensure compatible conservation and management measures between high-seas areas and coastal zones under national jurisdiction. A major feature of the treaty was its "precautionary approach", by which States were obligated to act conservatively when there was doubt about the viability of stocks.

(more)

The agreement was opened for signature at the special meeting of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and will enter into force 30 days after it has been signed by 30 countries.

* * *

Today the Tenth International Volunteers day was observed. In a statement on the occasion, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the achievements of the United Nations over the last fifty years had been remarkable, but conflict and poverty still afflicted the international community, amid preoccupation with domestic issues and constraints. Only renewed acts of will and resolve on the part of States and of peoples could ensure that the goals of peace and prosperity for all were kept firmly in view.

Volunteering, the Secretary-General said was just such an act of will. Today in scores of countries, volunteers -- including several thousand United Nations Volunteers -- demonstrated this resolve by helping the United Nations build peace, affirm democracy, promote human rights, relieve suffering and work for sustainable human development.

Every community had its volunteers. It has never been more urgent that they come forward, as the gaps between the richer and poorer in terms of money, resources, technology and information threatened to widen rather than narrow, the Secretary concluded.

* * *

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a partnership agreement in Washington. The partnership is to further strengthen collaboration between the two organizations in support of sustainable development efforts by their member countries.

The "Framework Agreement For Cooperation In Capacity-Building", signed by Elizabeth Dowdeswell, UNEP Executive Director and James Gustave Speth, UNDP Administrator, is the latest step in following up the commitment made by the two agency heads in April 1994 that their respective programmes work in closer collaboration.

The term "capacity-building" -- the processes and means for national governments and local communities to develop the skills and expertise needed to manage their environment and natural resources in a sustainable manner -- gained prominence at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, in 1992.

(more)

* * *

Many of the world's farm animal breeds are disappearing at an alarming rate, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned. In its new edition of the "World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity", the FAO said that globally, the state of animal genetic resources was worsening.

The report is based on information provided by 180 countries and was jointly sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO. The first Watch List was published in 1993.

The greatest threat to domestic animal diversity is the highly specialized nature of modern livestock, according to the FAO. Breeds are categorized by the FAO as endangered if there are 1,000 or less breeding females, or 20 breeding males or less. If there are 100 or less breeding females or 5 or less breeding males, the breed is considered as critical. The FAO has called for better management to overcome the erosion of animal genetic resources.

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2037

6 December 1995

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- General Assembly calls on States to become parties to 1982 Law of the Sea Convention; urges international community to take greater enforcement responsibility to comply with global moratorium on large-scale drift-net fishing on high seas.
- Economic and Financial Committee approves draft concerning coercive economic measures against developing countries.
- Secretary-General is in Geneva in preparation for the Peace Implementation Conference on the former Yugoslavia to be held in London this weekend.
- UNHCR says agency has 3-phase plan to repatriate 1.2 million refugees to the former Yugoslavia.
- Director-General of UNIDO says the Organization must continue its vital assistance to developing countries.

* * *

The General Assembly has called upon all States that have not done so, to become parties to the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea. In a resolution adopted by a vote of 132 in favour to 1 against (Turkey) with 3 abstentions, the Assembly also emphasized the importance of making adequate provisions for the efficient functioning of the institutions established by the Convention.

In a statement to the Assembly, the representative of Fiji, Ambassador Satya Nandan said the Convention on the Law of the Sea was in good shape and "heading towards the open sea with a full sail and universal support". The convention had set out new rules for the use of the oceans and the management of its resources, and established a balance between competing interests, he said.

Under the terms of another resolution, adopted without a vote, the Assembly emphasized the importance of the early entry into force and effective implementation of the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. States that had not yet signed, ratified or acceded to the Agreement which opened for signature on Monday, were called upon to do so.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

A third resolution urged the international community to take greater enforcement responsibility to ensure full compliance with the global moratorium on large-scale drift-net fishing on the high seas. The representative of the United States said his Government had taken steps to implement the resolution, including among other things, prohibiting large-scale drift-net fishing in the country's exclusive economic zone and making it unlawful for its nationals and vessels to engage in large-scale drift-net fishing anywhere on the high-seas.

* * *

The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) has called on the General Assembly to urge the international community to adopt effective measures to eliminate the use by some developed countries of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries. This, the Committee said, was as a means of forcibly imposing the will of one State on another. Under the terms of the draft, the Secretary-General would be requested to assign to the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the task of continuing to monitor the imposition of those measures and to prepare possible methodologies or criteria for evaluating their impact on the affected countries, including on their trade and development.

Under the terms of another draft on trade and development, the Assembly would decide to convene the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IX) in Midrand, South Africa next April.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is in Geneva following a 10-day five-nation tour of west Africa. The Secretary-General was conducting internal meetings with his senior aides on the situation in the former Yugoslavia.

The purpose of a meeting tomorrow at the Palais de Nations in Geneva was to prepare for the London Peace Implementation Conference to be held on 8 and 9 December, a United Nations spokesman said. The Secretary-General was to examine the role of the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia, in light of the evolution of the peace process in the region, including the questions of rehabilitation and construction and precisely what role the United Nations would play under the Dayton Agreements. Expected to participate in the meeting were Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia; Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Former Yugoslavia and Special Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Jose Ayala Lasso, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and General Rupert Smith, Force Commander, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(more)

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata was in Zagreb as part of her visit to the region of the former Yugoslavia. At a press conference on Tuesday, Mrs. Ogata acknowledged the difficulties involved in bringing home 1.3 million Bosnian refugees and said that she was in the country to discuss UNHCR's repatriation programme with the governments of the region.

Mrs. Ogata said the Dayton peace agreement gave UNHCR not only a continuation of the role as the lead agency in humanitarian affairs, but also particularly to devise a plan for repatriation of refugees and return of the internally displaced people. She said the question of repatriation was a very complex one, explaining that UNHCR had a three-phase plan to bring people home.

In the first phase, UNHCR would be returning an estimated 1.2 million displaced people inside Bosnia and Herzegovina, because they were the ones who were with the immediate need of some place to go where they could have shelter and safety. In the next phase the Agency would bring people who were refugees in the neighbouring countries. In the final phase UNHCR hoped those who went to Europe would be able to return.

* * *

There are reports of the continuation of looting and burning of houses in Mrkonj Grad and areas around Sipovo in the former Yugoslavia. A United Nations spokesman said United Nations sources had witnessed the stripping and looting of buildings by troops wearing Bosnian Croat Army and Croatian Army uniforms. An entire village north-west of Mrkonj Grad had been burnt to the ground, according to the spokesman. From Gorazde, United Nations military observers reported that a small number of houses in the south of the enclave of Gorazde were burned or being stripped. This area is due to be handed over to the Bosnian Federation under the Dayton Agreements.

* * *

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), must continue its vital assistance to developing countries to build their industries and achieve a better life for their people, even with reduced funding, according to the Director-General of the Organization. Mauricio de Maria y Campos gave that assurance while responding to the announcement by the United States that it would leave UNIDO at the end of 1996. He said UNIDO was a unique forum for industrial development dedicated to providing client countries with manufacturing technology and management advice.

(more)

With regard to the United States decision, Mr. de Maria Y Campos said the loss of the United States membership would be felt not only in the lack of financial, but also moral support for the Organization's crucial work. However, he added, UNIDO would continue to serve its constituents, since they relied on the Organization for their industrial future.

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2038

7 December 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Security Council expresses deep concern over looting and burning by HVO forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina; demands end to all such actions.
- * General Assembly deplores Israeli policies and practices which violate human rights of Palestinian and other Arabs in occupied territories.
- * Secretary-General prepares United Nations transition plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- * In former Yugoslavia, UNHCR reports increase in movement of people throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- * In Iraq, two UN guards are killed and one seriously injured.
- * Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee approves draft aimed at improving situation of rural women.
- * In Angola, UNITA, says it will stop quartering of its troops as called for under Lusaka Peace Agreements.
- * WHO is to head new expanded programme for eliminating river blindness from Africa.
- * Secretary-General expresses regret at decision of United States to withdraw from UNIDO.
- * UNDP and several Northeast Asian governments sign development agreements.

* * *

The Security Council has expressed its deep concern over the looting and burning of houses by the HVO forces in the area of Mrkonjic Grad and Sipovo, which have continued for some time. In a presidential statement Thursday evening, the Council noted with concern that similar acts had been committed by Bosnian Serb forces in other areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council was also deeply concerned by reports that the HVO was moving mine laying equipment into the Mrkonjic Grad and Sipovo areas.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Council President for the month of December, Sergey Lavrov of the Russian Federation said in the statement that the Council considered such actions to be dangerous and detrimental to the spirit of confidence essential for the implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Security Council demanded that all such actions be stopped immediately and stressed the need for all parties to exercise maximum restraint and to demonstrate the cooperation essential for the successful implementation of the Peace Agreement.

* * *

The General Assembly has deplored Israeli policies and practices which violate the human rights of the Palestinian and other Arabs in the occupied territories and expressed the hope that, in light of recent positive political developments, those violations would end immediately. The Assembly took that action by adopting a number of resolutions on Israeli practices.

In one resolution adopted by a vote of 144 in favour to 2 against (Israel, United States) with 7 abstentions, the Assembly also noted with satisfaction the return of a number of deportees to the occupied territories and called on Israel to facilitate the return of the rest and accelerate the release of all remaining Palestinians arbitrarily detained or imprisoned.

By a recorded vote of 147 in favour and 2 against (Israel, United States) with 4 abstentions, the Assembly demanded that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention to the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem and other territories it had occupied since 1967, and comply with its provisions.

The Assembly commended the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices for its impartiality, asked it to continue its work and demanded that Israel cooperate with the Committee. It took that action by adopting a resolution by a vote of 69 in favour to 2 against with 80 abstentions.

In another action, the Assembly called on Israel to "rescind forthwith" its decision to impose laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan and, by a recorded vote of 139 in favour to 1 against (Israel), with 13 abstentions, it also called on Israel to desist from changing its physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status.

Including these, the Assembly also acted on 25 draft resolutions and 5 draft decisions as recommended by its Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization). In addition to Israeli practices, it took action on reports on decolonization, atomic radiation, international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and peace-keeping operations.

(more)

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met with his senior aides in Geneva today to draw up a United Nations plan for the transfer from United Nations peace-keepers in Bosnia- Herzegovina and in most of Croatia to an international implementation force that would be fielded and commanded by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The Secretary-General is expected to present the United Nations plan at the Peace Implementation Conference in London on Friday and Saturday that will discuss the transition according to the terms of the peace agreement negotiated in Dayton, Ohio, between the Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian governments.

Speaking to journalists at the United Nations Office in Geneva today, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the United Nations never pretended to have a monopoly on the peaceful solution of the international dispute. He said the United Nations welcomed any group of countries or any regional organizations which could solve this problem. The Secretary-General had sent a letter to the Security Council, earlier this year, saying that for financial reasons, the United Nations could not continue its presence in the former Yugoslavia. He had proposed a multinational force.

The Secretary-General said the London Conference was expected to dissolve the machinery of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia set up jointly between the United Nations and the European Union to work for peace in the former Yugoslavia. But the United Nations would have continuing responsibilities in the areas of humanitarian action, particularly the return of refugees and the displaced people, the deployment of an international civilian police force and the protection of human rights.

The Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia and for NATO, Kofi Annan, and the commander of United Nations Peace Forces in the former Yugoslavia General Bernard Janvier would oversee the military transition, the Secretary-General said. The United Nations Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, would be in charge of humanitarian action. The UN Department of Peace Keeping Operations would deploy the international civilian police force and the human rights responsibilities in the former Yugoslavia would be shared by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, the United Nations Center for Human Rights, the UN Special Rapporteur for the former Yugoslavia, Elizabeth Rein and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The Secretary-General also said that he would nominate a high UN official to coordinate between the different UN bodies operating in Bosnia as well as with the international implementation force that will be deploying soon.

(more)

Mr. Boutros-Ghali, who had just ended a 10-day tour of five western African countries said that he was also discussing the situation in Rwanda with his aides. The mandate of the UN peace keeping mission in Rwanda, UNAMIR, is due to end on December 8th.

* * *

In the former Yugoslavia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, (UNHCR) has reported that there had been an increase in the movement of people in different areas of Bosnia. A UNHCR spokesman said this appeared to be all connected with areas of the country which were due to be handed over to one side or the other as a result of the Dayton Agreement. There had been reported movement of 1,500 Croats from Sipovo. UNHCR had confirmed that some of these people had already reached Croat-held territory in Western Bosnia.

Meanwhile, the cease-fire in Bosnia-Herzegovina seemed to be holding well along the entire confrontation line. There had been some very heavy snow falls; however the Sarajevo airport and the "blue routes" remained open. United Nations engineers continued to work with local engineers and had completed repairs on electricity lines, reducing the number of electrical failures and stabilizing the flow into the city of Sarajevo.

* * *

Two United Nations guards have been killed and one seriously injured in Iraq, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said the tragedy occurred today, as the guards were driving past a local gas station when one of the four fuel tanks located at the site exploded. The spokesman said the incident was being investigated and there was no conclusive result yet. Those who died in the accident were from Poland and the Philippines and the third guard who was injured, was from Nepal.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed his condolences to the families of the two guards. The United Nations has a total of 152 guards from seven countries serving in Iraq. They are from the Czech Republic, Denmark, Bangladesh, Greece, Poland, the Philippines and Nepal.

* * *

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee has called on the General Assembly to request the international community to promote the realization of the programme and projects aimed at the improvement of the situation of rural women. This would be within the overall framework of an integrated follow-up to relevant global conferences.

Also by the draft, the World Food Summit, to be held in 1996, would be invited to give due consideration to the improvement of the situation of women

(more)

in rural areas, taking into account their role in food production and food security. In addition, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II), would be invited to consider the gender aspects of rural-urban migration and its impact on the situation of rural women, in formulating relevant strategies and actions.

* * *

In Angola, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), has said it would stop the quartering of its troops. It cited, what it said were recent attacks by Government soldiers against positions under its control in several provinces. UNITA had also accused some members of the United Nations Blue Helmets of sexual violations.

A United Nations spokesman in Luanda said UNITA's statement came just one day after a session of the Joint Commission, which strongly condemned the government incursions in UNITA-controlled areas and had decided to send a high-level delegation headed by the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) Force Commander General Philip Sibanda accompanied by representatives from both the Government and UNITA. The Commission also demanded an investigation into the accusations of sexual violations. During a press conference which followed the meeting of the Joint Commission, Alicune Blandon Beye, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Angola, pointed out that the time had come for all parties to contribute to a new impetus to push the Angolan peace process forward.

UNITA was also seeking an explanation from the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) for what it says were sexual violations committed by elements of the Blue helmets in regions under UNITA's control, the spokesman said. It is also calling for a re-evaluation of the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol.

* * *

The World Health Organization (WHO) is now set to lead a new programme which aims to control and eventually eliminate river blindness as a public health hazard from the entire African continent. The new initiative, the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control would become operational in January 1996. The programme would directly benefit more than 15 million people who were infected with the disease in 16 participating African countries. In all, nearly 100 million people living in those countries were estimated to be at risk from the disease.

As the executing agency, WHO would provide overall technical guidance and coordination, working in close cooperation with the World Bank, participating governments, bilateral donors and non-governmental development organizations.

(more)

* * *

The Secretary-General has taken note with regret of the decision of the United States to withdraw from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) effective 31 December 1996. In a statement issued through his spokesperson in Europe, the Secretary-General said that universality was one of the main strengths of the agencies of the United Nations system. He expressed the hope that UNIDO would be able to adjust its work programme in order to account for this new situation.

* * *

Following three years of quiet diplomacy between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the governments of the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, key senior officials of these countries have signed three agreements to develop the Tugmen River Economic Development Area.

The agreements will establish the first inter-governmental organization for development in Northeast Asia. UNDP Administrator, James Gustave Speth, who hosted the historic signing, said he wanted the project to be a model of people-centred, environmentally sustainable development, with benefits to the poor and jobless in the region, which has 150 million people.

UNDP contributed over \$4 million to the initial phase of the Project.

* * * * *



UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2039

8 December 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Security Council extends mandate of UNAMIR until 12 December 1995.
- * Peace Implementation Conference opens in London.
- * In Croatia, joint Croatian-Yugoslav Commission for missing persons begins work on cooperation in search for missing people.
- * UNESCO Director-General appeals for peace in conflict ravaged countries.
- * World conferences are cost-effective ways of tackling challenges of next century, Chile tells General Assembly.
- * Only democracy can truly guarantee human rights, Secretary-General says in Human Rights Day message.
- * Ebola case is confirmed in Cote d'Ivoire.
- * UNDP is to support electoral process in Chad.
- * World plays soccer on Saturday to observe United Nations fiftieth anniversary.

* * * *

The Security Council has extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) for four days expiring on Tuesday 12 December 1995.

Unanimously adopting resolution 1028 (1995) the Council recalled all its previous resolutions on the situation in Rwanda, in particular its resolution 997 (1995) of 9 June 1995.

The Council decided to remain seized of the matter.

* * *

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Peace Implementation Conference on the former Yugoslavia has opened in London. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is in London attending the Conference.

Earlier, in Geneva Mr. Boutros-Ghali had meetings with his senior aides to draw up a United Nations plan to effect the transition from United Nations peace-keepers to the multinational force deployed and commanded by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO.

* * *

The United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, (UNCRO) has reported that the situation in its area of operations continued to improve with the level of incidents remaining very low.

Also in Croatia, the joint commission for missing persons established by Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia began its work on cooperation in the search for missing people. The Croatian team was headed by Deputy Prime Minister Ivica Kostovic, while Deputy Prime Minister Uros Klikovac, headed the team of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

A United Nations Radio report from Zagreb said after the first session of the joint commission, Mr. Kostovic and Mr. Klikovac told reporters that more concrete results could be expected after the next session which should be held in Belgrade by 1 January 1996. The joint commission issued a statement after its first session in which it confirmed it's respect for the principles of international humanitarian law, the report said. The Joint Commission encouraged cooperation between the Red Cross in both countries in search of missing people and agreed that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) may be allowed immediate access to all prisons in the two countries, and the ICRC reports may be available to the Commission.

* * *

The Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), has appealed for peace and reconciliation in conflict-ravaged countries. In a statement, Director-General Federico Mayor said peace could not be brought about only through treaties, rather it must be constructed in the mind of every citizen. He said there was a growing momentum throughout the world to end war and build democracy, an opportunity which he said "we cannot afford to lose".

The UNESCO Director-General also pointed to recent historic peace agreements and democratic elections which had shown that more and more world leaders were willing to shoulder the responsibility of making peace, "an act of political courage far greater than leading soldiers into war."

* * *

(more)

Conferences such as the World Summit for Social Development provided a unique and cost-effective way to tackle the challenges of the twenty-first century, the representative of Chile told the General Assembly as it reviewed implementation of the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit, held last March. Ambassador Juan Somavia said the message of the Social Summit was simple: stability required equality and respect for the environment. He said the Social Summit had fostered a political vision of a world peace, a possibility which was also a moral imperative. The Social Summit was akin to a starting point, but at the same time, it was very much part of a process, he concluded.

Other speakers told the Assembly that while national governments had the primary responsibility for giving meaning to human-centred development, international financial institutions, regional organizations, local authorities and representatives of civil society should assist the governments in achieving that goal.

The representative of Tanzania said deliberate measures were required to ensure that civil society was empowered to participate in the economic and social decision-making processes. Radhia Msuya stressed that one of the major commitments made in Copenhagen was the commitment to poverty eradication. In the context of her country, the imperative was to expand productive employment, which was the primary basis for the people to improve their living standards. At Copenhagen, she said due emphasis was given to the importance of the participation of women in civil society in the quest for social development.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, the representative of Spain called for the full exploration of means to effectively mobilize financial resources for social development.

* * *

Human Rights Day is Sunday 10 December. In a message marking the occasion, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali noted that since its inception, the United Nations had worked to extend its normative efforts, not only into the field of individual rights, but also into those of economic, social and cultural rights.

In his message Mr. Boutros-Ghali said it was his profound belief that only democracy both within States and within the community of States could truly guarantee human rights, a United Nations spokesman said. Democratization therefore must be a goal of the international community. The spokesman said the Secretary-General's message on Human Rights Day was that democracy was the political expression of our common heritage. Democracy was for everyone and like human rights, democracy had a universal dimension, so democracy and human rights were goals which were indissolubly linked and which must be pursued together.

(more)

* * *

The United Nations shares the anguish of Human Rights Watch over man's continuing inhumanity to his fellow man, a United Nations spokesman has said, commenting on a report by Human Rights Watch critical of the United Nations human rights record.

History would be making its own judgement as to the United Nations's effectiveness in alleviating human misery. The spokesman said it was interesting that even as they unveiled their criticism of United Nations' performance on human rights, a poll of the United States public, conducted for the United Nations Association of the United States, found that 49 per cent of Americans thought that the United Nations had become more important or somewhat more important in dealing with problems around the world. The poll also found that 54 per cent thought that the United Nations was doing a good job in solving the problems it had to face.

* * *

The World Health Organization, WHO has been informed of a suspected case of Ebola haemorrhagic fever in Cote d'Ivoire. The patient is a 25-year-old man from a village in neighbouring Liberia. The diagnosis of Ebola infection was confirmed by serological tests carried out at the Institut Pasteur in Paris.

Within 24 hours a WHO team, including an expert from the Institut Pasteur, flew to Abidjan. They are now investigating the case on site and are working in close cooperation with Ministry of Health of Cote d'Ivoire, Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF), Epicentre (Paris) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

* * *

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has announced that it will support the electoral process in Chad. The central African country is to hold democratic elections next year for the first time since it won independence in 1960. An electoral census will be conducted ahead of the poll, with assistance from UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). UNDP is providing US\$80,000 to help the government organize and prepare for the elections which are being planned for mid-year.

* * *

Saturday will mark the day the whole world played soccer or football as it is known in most of the world -- to observe the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The governing body of world soccer, the International Federation of Football Associations, known by its French acronym FIFA, has invited all its 191 national associations worldwide to play at least one game

(more)

in a designated time-frame to create a ribbon of football games around the globe.

"The Day the World Played Football is our sport's contribution to the half-century of the United Nations", said FIFA General Secretary Joseph S. Blatter in Zurich. Urging all his football associations to take part on 9 December, he said it was important "to show that there is no more effective way of bringing the world together than through football".

Over 120 countries have heeded his call and have agreed to host games. One or two countries in each of the 24 time zones have been specially selected to play a key part in assuring the continuity of the football chain. They include Norway, where the ribbon starts, in honour of Trygve Lie, the first United Nations Secretary-General, together with such countries as Morocco, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, Fiji, Guam, Uzbekistan, South Africa and France, where the ribbon ends, in Paris on Sunday, 10 December - 24 hours after kick-off.

Franz Beckenbauer, former captain of the German World Cup winning team, will kick off in Oslo and President Chirac of France will officiate at the end of the event in Paris. That city will be the site of the preliminary draw, on 12 December, for the 1998 World Cup.

In an effort to involve the youth of the world, the United Nations fiftieth anniversary Secretariat has made available to participants the "Passport to the Future" -- which encourages the active participation of young players and fans in accomplishing the goals of the United Nations.

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2040
11 December 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Secretary-General says he will make recommendations to Security Council on United Nations role in civilian aspects of Dayton Peace Agreement; urges immediate release of French pilots missing in Bosnia.
- * General Assembly establishes Preparatory Committee to draft convention for international criminal court; endorses Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by Beijing Women's Conference.
- * Secretary-General says deployment of UNAVEM troops is near completion and establishment of quartering areas is well advanced; warns Angolan parties against complacency in implementation of Lusaka Protocol.
- * Member States owe United Nations \$2.6 billion as of 30 November; \$640 million owed to regular budget and \$2 billion to peace-keeping and International Tribunals.
- * Three Norwegian peace-keepers injured by Israeli tank fire in southern Lebanon.
- * Government of Norway to contribute \$10 million to UNDP Trust Fund for Governance in Africa.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was in Geneva today, having attended the Peace Implementation Conference on the former Yugoslavia in London over the weekend. He said he would make recommendations to the Security Council on the United Nations role in the civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Those recommendations would deal with the international police task force, which would be coordinated by United Nations civilian police, as well as human rights and civil affairs functions. The Organization would provide administrative and other support to the Implementation Force and the High

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Representative during the transition of authority from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

In a related development, the Secretary-General today urged that the two French pilots shot down over Bosnia and Herzegovina earlier this year be released immediately. He said those responsible should respond without further delay to the request made by the Government of France.

* * *

The General Assembly today established a Preparatory Committee to draft a widely acceptable convention for an international criminal court, by the terms of one of 14 texts adopted on the recommendation of its Sixth Committee (Legal). The Preparatory Committee will meet in 1996 from 25 March to 12 April and from 12 to 30 August to consider major issues arising out of the draft statute of the court, which has been prepared by the International Law Commission.

Also today, the Assembly expressed its intention to initiate procedures to delete the "enemy States" clauses from the Charter. It took that action by adopting a resolution on the Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. The Assembly decided that membership in the Special Committee should be open to all Member States. The draft was adopted by a vote of 155 in favour to none against, with 3 abstentions (Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Libya).

On Friday, the General Assembly endorsed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women last September. By means of a resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly called upon members of the international community to take action for the effective implementation of the Beijing agreements.

* * *

The United Nations is pressing ahead with its task of supporting the efforts of the Angolan people and their leaders to put in place the structure for lasting peace in their country, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the Security Council dated 7 December, he said that the deployment of United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) troops was near completion and that the establishment of quartering areas was well advanced. Although much had been achieved since the signing of the Lusaka Protocol a year ago, there was no room for complacency, he warned.

The Secretary-General said many factors that had prevented implementation of the earlier peace accords were still in evidence: distrust; continuing military activities; foot-dragging over quartering and related activities; obstruction of free movement and the restoration of government

(more)

administration; and lack of respect for United Nations and other international personnel. He appealed to the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to demonstrate through concrete action that they were committed to peace and that they were ready to correct those negative factors.

* * *

As of 30 November, Member States owed the United Nations a total of \$2.6 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, \$640 million was for assessments for the regular budget and \$2 billion was for peace-keeping operations and the International Tribunals. The figure for peace-keeping included assessments within the 30-day due period.

* * *

Three Norwegian peace-keepers serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were injured by Israeli tank fire over the weekend, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The Israeli forces had been warned beforehand that UNIFIL would be conducting patrols in the area. They expressed regret for the incident and said there would be an investigation.

* * *

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator, James Gustave Speth, and the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations, Hans Jacob Biørn Lian, have signed an agreement under which the Norwegian Government will contribute \$10 million to the UNDP Trust Fund for Governance in Africa. Norway is the first country to announce a contribution to the recently created Trust Fund.

The main objective of the Trust Fund is to assist Africa in acquiring the capacities needed for democratic public administration and governance. That objective is in tandem with sustainable human development priorities, including UNDP's mission of poverty eradication.

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2041
12 December 1995

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- * Security Council extends UNAMIR for final period until 8 March 1996; adjusts mandate in light of efforts to restore peace and stability through return of Rwandan refugees; reduces force level to 1,200 troops.
- * Secretary-General expresses thanks for release of two French pilots missing in Bosnia and Herzegovina; will participate in signing of Bosnian Peace Agreement in Paris on Thursday.
- * General Assembly adopts seven resolutions dealing with United Nations humanitarian and disaster relief; adopts report of Preparatory Committee for fiftieth anniversary.
- * Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNMOT mandate for six months; notes slow progress towards resolution of Tajik conflict and rising tension on ground.
- * Afghanistan can attain peace and stability, but will need continued support of United Nations and international community, Secretary-General says.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) for a final period until 8 March 1996. It also decided, in the light of current efforts to restore peace through the voluntary and safe repatriation of Rwandan refugees, to adjust the Mission's mandate. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 1029 (1995).

The Council mandated UNAMIR to: exercise its good offices to assist in achieving the voluntary and safe repatriation of refugees within the frame of reference of the recommendations of the Bujumbura Conference and the Cairo Summit of the Heads of State of the Great Lakes Region, and in promoting national reconciliation; and assist the Rwandan Government in facilitating the voluntary and safe return of refugees and, to that end, support the

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Government's efforts to promote a climate of confidence and trust through the performance of monitoring tasks.

The Mission will also: assist the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other international agencies in the provision of logistical support for the repatriation of refugees; and contribute, with the agreement of the Rwandan Government, to the protection of the International Tribunal for Rwanda as an interim measure until alternative arrangements agreed with the Government can be put in place.

The Council requested the Secretary-General to reduce the Mission's force level to 1,200 troops, and to reduce the number of military observers, headquarters and other military support staff to 200. It also requested him to withdraw the Mission's Civilian Police component. The Council further requested him to initiate planning for the complete withdrawal of UNAMIR within six weeks after the expiry of its mandate.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed thanks to all those who had contributed to the liberation of the two French pilots shot down over Bosnia and Herzegovina more than 100 days ago. He said the release of Captain Chiffot and Lieutenant Souvignat showed, once again, the indispensable virtues of diplomacy and dialogue.

The Secretary-General told correspondents in Geneva that he would participate in the signing of the Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Paris on Thursday. He said the United Nations would contribute to the implementation of the Agreement in three ways: at the level of the international police force; at the humanitarian level, through the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees; and through collaboration with other organizations in the protection of human rights.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he would then return to New York, where the Security Council would adopt a resolution on Eastern Slavonia. The operation there would be led directly by the United Nations. "We will take care of this region, which is to be returned, in conformity with the accord signed between the two parties, to the Government of Croatia," he added.

* * *

The General Assembly today adopted seven resolutions addressing United Nations humanitarian and disaster relief, including assistance to Liberia, Central America, El Salvador, Angola and Djibouti, as well as countries affected by the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The Assembly also adopted the report of its Preparatory Committee for the Organization's fiftieth anniversary, noting with deep appreciation the successful completion of its work.

(more)

By the resolutions adopted today, the Assembly referred further deliberations on the strengthening of the coordination of United Nations emergency humanitarian assistance to the 1996 session of the Economic and Social Council; requested the Secretary-General to undertake an assessment of needs in Liberia, with a view to holding a round-table conference of donors on the matter; requested the United Nations to mobilize resources for the new strategy for development of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America; and urged the Government of El Salvador and all political forces involved in the peace process to finish complying with the Peace Agreement and to continue to develop programmes to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people.

The Assembly also called on the Angolan parties to fully implement the Peace Accords in order to bring peace and stability to the country; requested the Secretary-General to increase the opportunity for countries affected by the implementation of the Security Council sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to participate actively in the post-conflict reconstruction of the former Yugoslavia; and declared its solidarity with Djibouti and requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for that country.

* * *

The Security Council should extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) for six months, according to the Secretary-General. In a report dated 8 December, he said that progress towards resolving the conflict had been slow and that tension on the ground had risen. However, the protocol on the fundamental principles for establishing peace and national accord in Tajikistan signed by the parties in August would serve as an important framework for the ongoing negotiations on a comprehensive peace agreement.

The vast majority of internally displaced persons and refugees had been successfully resettled, Mr. Boutros-Ghali noted. However, delays continued to occur in the implementation of other important confidence-building measures agreed upon during the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks. He welcomed the support Security Council members had given to his proposal for the strengthening of UNMOT, and called on the Afghan authorities and the United Tajik Opposition to facilitate arrangements permitting the establishment of an additional liaison post at Taloqan.

The Secretary-General called on the Tajik parties to use the newly convened talks at Ashkhabad as a means of restoring peace and national accord in their country. The support of all concerned -- particularly of neighbouring and other observer States -- was needed for that important effort.

(more)

* * *

The Secretary-General has stated that Afghanistan is at a critical crossroads. In a report to the General Assembly dated 6 December, he said the country could either pursue peace through dialogue and negotiations in a spirit of give-and-take and with the assistance of the United Nations, or follow the route of continued war and confrontation where today's victor might be tomorrow's vanquished. Unfortunately, the current leaders of the principal factions seemed to favour the route of war and confrontation, notwithstanding the evident longing of their people for peace.

Nevertheless, the Secretary-General said that peace and stability in Afghanistan were attainable, and that the United Nations should not falter now. He stressed that the international community should not lose interest in the country, nor become accustomed to its plight.

* * * * *



UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2042

13 December 1995

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- * General Assembly urges immediate cessation of all nuclear testing; urges continuation of moratoriums pending entry into force of comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty.
- * Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNFICYP mandate for six months; expresses concern at excessive levels of military forces in Cyprus.
- * Secretary-General to report to Security Council on transition from UNPROFOR to Implementation Force; rejects charges United Nations operation in former Yugoslavia was not successful.
- * WFP warns it will shut down operations in Democratic People's Republic of Korea if donor countries do not immediately come forward with contributions.
- * Administrative and Budgetary Committee recommends waiver of \$95 million credits to write off South Africa's apartheid-era dues.
- * Economic and Social Council decides to enlarge membership of Population and Development Commission from 27 to 47 members.
- * Conference of States Parties to Rights of Child Convention decides to enlarge Committee membership from 10 to 18 experts.

* * *

The General Assembly has strongly deplored all current nuclear testing and strongly urged the immediate cessation of all such testing. It took that action yesterday, by adopting a resolution recommended by its First Committee (Disarmament and International Security). By 85 votes in favour to 18 against, with 43 abstentions, the Assembly commended those nuclear-weapon States observing testing moratoriums and urged them to continue the moratoriums pending the entry into force of a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Assembly adopted a total of 46 resolutions and three decisions recommended by the First Committee. They dealt with such issues as nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, conventional arms, regional disarmament, confidence-building and transparency, an outer space arms race, international security, and disarmament bodies.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for six months until 30 June 1996. In a report dated 10 December, he said UNFICYP's presence on the island remained indispensable to achieving the objectives set out by the Council. Resolution 186 (1964) mandated the Force to use its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of fighting and, as necessary, to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions.

The Secretary-General recalled the Security Council's declaration that the status quo in Cyprus was not an acceptable option. He pointed out that the situation was not static and that delaying an overall settlement was not in the interest of either side. He expressed concern at the excessive levels of military forces and armaments on the island and at the rate at which they were being strengthened. Neither side had heeded the Council's calls for a significant reduction in the number of foreign troops and in defence spending. It had not been possible to make progress even on modest measures aimed at reducing confrontation along the cease-fire lines.

* * *

The Secretary-General is expected to present a report soon on the transition from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Implementation Force, according to a United Nations spokesman. The report will address the coordination of the United Nations contribution to the implementation of the Bosnian peace accords in the areas of humanitarian relief, refugees, displaced persons, demining, civilian police, human rights, elections and reconstruction.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali rejected allegations that the United Nations operation in the former Yugoslavia had not been a success, the spokesman stressed. The original and primary purpose in deploying peace-keepers in Bosnia and Herzegovina was to protect humanitarian activities. That mission had been largely successful, thanks to the courage and dedication of the civilian workers concerned and thanks to the protection, logistics support and other services provided by UNPROFOR. The United Nations had paid a very high price, with too many of its personnel killed or seriously injured.

* * *

(more)

Press Release DH/2042
13 December 1995

The World Food Programme (WFP) today warned that it would have to shut down its operations for a half a million people in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea if donor countries did not immediately come forward with contributions. The Programme said it would begin phasing out operations on 20 December and would close its Pyongyang office on 15 January if no new contributions were forthcoming.

* * *

Member States would waive their right to receive about \$95 million out of \$296 million in credits available to them from previous United Nations regular and peace-keeping budgets, if the General Assembly writes off South Africa's unpaid dues for the period between 30 September 1974 and 23 June 1994, according to a letter to the Assembly President approved by the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary). The Committee's action was taken in response to a 4 December letter from the Assembly President, transmitting the plenary's decision that, because of the political importance of the issue, the Committee should provide technical observations on the draft resolution.

Consideration of the agenda item was first requested in a letter from South Africa, whose arrears for 30 September 1974 to 23 June 1994, when the apartheid regime's representatives were excluded from taking part in the Assembly, are about \$95 million. Earlier, the representative of South Africa informed the Committee that his country would waive credits of \$549,606 and \$737,142 that it would be in position to receive from surpluses in the regular and peace-keeping budgets, respectively, for the period between 30 September 1974 and 23 June 1994.

* * *

The Economic and Social Council has decided to enlarge the membership of the Commission on Population and Development from 27 to 47 members. The review of the Commission's membership was among the recommendations of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

After protracted negotiations, it was decided that the geographical distribution of seats would be as follows: 12 to African States; 11 to Asian States; 5 to Eastern European States; 9 to Latin American and Caribbean States; and 10 to Western European and Other States. It was also decided that Commission members would be elected by the Council from among members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and in time for their participation in the Commission's twenty-ninth session, scheduled for February 1996.

Following the decision's adoption, several delegations expressed displeasure with the outcome of the consultations on the matter and stressed that they had joined the consensus with reluctance and in the spirit of compromise.

(more)

* * *

The Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child has decided to enlarge the membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from 10 to 18 experts. To enter into force, the amendment must be adopted by the General Assembly and approved by two thirds of the States parties.

The Committee examines the progress made by States parties in achieving their obligations under the Convention. The experts serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the principal legal systems. They are elected for a four-year term and are eligible for re-election if renominated.

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2043

14 December 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Security Council extends UNMOT mandate until 15 June 1996, provided 1994 Tehran Agreement remains in force and parties remain committed to cease-fire, reconciliation and democracy.
- * Secretary-General attends signing of Bosnian Peace Agreement in Paris; says United Nations is committed to working with international police force, assisting refugees and promoting human rights.
- * Secretary-General says coalition of Member States, rather than United Nations, should deploy transitional peace-keeping force in Eastern Slavonia.
- * Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee approves draft resolutions dealing with human rights in Sudan, Iraq, Cuba and former Yugoslavia.
- * Second round of all-Bougainvillean talks to be held in Cairns, Australia, from 15 to 19 December; Francesc Vendrell to represent Secretary-General.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) until 15 June 1996. The extension was subject to the proviso that the Tehran Agreement of 17 September 1994 remained in force and the parties continued to be committed to an effective cease-fire, national reconciliation and the promotion of democracy. The Council decided that the mandate would remain in effect unless the Secretary-General reported that those conditions had not been met.

By unanimously adopting resolution 1030 (1995), the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to pursue efforts to speed up the progress towards the establishment of a durable peace and national accord in Tajikistan. It also requested him to report every three months on the progress towards a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict and the operations of UNMOT. Regretting the slow rate of progress towards a political

(more)

For information media—not an official record

solution to the conflict in Tajikistan, the Council emphasized the need for the Tajik parties to take the opportunity of the continual round of talks in Ashgabat to reach a general agreement.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today attended the signing of the Bosnian Peace Agreement in Paris. In a statement, he expressed hope that the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a Member State of the United Nations, would at last be able to live in peace and in dialogue. He highlighted the Organization's role in making peace possible and in alleviating human suffering in the former Yugoslavia.

From peace-keeping to humanitarian action, through unprecedented and perilous missions, the soldiers of the United Nations had given diplomats the time they needed to complete their work, the Secretary-General said. All who had worked tirelessly for peace, and all members of the Contact Group, were well aware that the Organization had always been ready to support their efforts.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali stressed that the United Nations would do everything possible to assist the implementation of the Peace Agreement. It was already working in close cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to ensure the best possible transition to the Implementation Force (IFOR). In the months to come, the United Nations would pursue its mission, especially by participating with the international police force, assisting refugees and promoting the protection of human rights in conjunction with other concerned organizations.

In a related development, the Secretary-General submitted a report to the Security Council on aspects of the implementation of the Peace Agreement as they affected the United Nations. He set out proposals concerning a variety of ways in which the Organization could contribute to the international effort in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* * *

Deployment of a transitional force to implement certain provisions of the Basic Agreement on Eastern Slavonia should be entrusted to a coalition of Member States rather than to the United Nations, according to the Secretary-General. In a report dated 13 December, he said the United Nations would face great difficulty in assembling and deploying such a force in the time-frame envisaged by the parties. He also expressed reservations about the Organization's ability to undertake such an enforcement operation.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali suggested that the Security Council authorize member States to establish the multinational force. For command and logistic purposes it should be attached to IFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The force

(more)

14 December 1995

should have a mandate under Chapter VII of the Charter, the capacity to take the necessary action to maintain peace and security, and the ability to defend itself. While effective demilitarization of Eastern Slavonia at the outset of the operation was vital, implementation of civilian aspects of the Basic Agreement should also begin as soon as possible. The Council should therefore authorize the establishment of the transitional administration and local implementation committees.

For the operation to succeed, it must have the active and sustained political support of the Security Council and of those Member States that had played a vital part in concluding the Basic Agreement, he concluded. Furthermore, Member States must provide the necessary troops and guarantees that adequate financial resources would be made available.

* * *

The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) today approved eight draft resolutions on human rights, including texts dealing with Sudan, Iraq, Cuba and the former Yugoslavia.

By the terms of one draft resolution, the General Assembly would call on the Government of Sudan to comply with applicable international human rights instruments to which it was a party. It would urge the Government to cease immediately all aerial attacks on civilian targets and other attacks that violated international humanitarian law. The draft was approved as a whole by 93 votes in favour to 15 against, with 47 abstentions.

Another draft resolution would have the Assembly once again call upon the Cuban Government to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur by permitting him full and free access to establish contact with the Government and the citizens of the country so that he might fulfil his mandate. It would also call on the Government to release the numerous persons detained for activities of a political nature. That text was approved by 62 votes in favour to 23 against, with 73 abstentions.

By the terms of a draft approved by 104 votes in favour to 4 against (Sudan, Gambia, Nigeria and Libya), with 49 abstentions, the Assembly would condemn the "massive and extremely grave violations of human rights for which the Government of Iraq is responsible". It would also strongly condemn the continued refusal of the Iraqi Government to take advantage of resources available to alleviate the suffering of the people.

A draft resolution approved without a vote would have the Assembly strongly condemn the "abhorrent practice of rape and abuse of women and children" in areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Preambular paragraph six of that draft, which referred to ethnic cleansing being carried

(more)

out by Serbian forces, was approved by 133 votes in favour to one against (Russian Federation), with 11 abstentions.

* * *

The second round of all-Bougainvillean talks involving the Bougainville Transitional Government (BTG), the Bougainville Interim Government (BIG), and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) will be held in Cairns, Australia, from 15 to 19 December.

As requested by the parties to the conflict, the Secretary-General has designated Francesc Vendrell, Director of the East Asia and the Pacific Division in the Department of Political Affairs, as his Envoy to participate in the talks. It is hoped that the talks will represent the first step leading towards a political solution to the Bougainville question.

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2044
15 December 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Security Council authorizes Member States, acting through or in cooperation with NATO, to establish multinational Implementation Force to implement Bosnian Peace Agreement.
- * Secretary-General briefs Security Council on recent visits to West Africa and Europe; to hold press conference at Headquarters on Monday.
- * General Assembly waives South Africa's unpaid dues from apartheid era; adopts resolutions on question of Palestine, assistance to Nicaragua and situation in Haiti.
- * Secretary-General has made advancement of women a policy priority of United Nations, Special Political Adviser tells Women's International Forum.
- * UNDP to open Sarajevo office in March; will provide assistance with governance and aid coordination and conduct studies to determine Bosnia's needs.

* * *

The Security Council today authorized Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), to establish a multinational Implementation Force (IFOR) to implement the Bosnian Peace Agreement. It welcomed and supported the Agreement, which was signed yesterday in Paris, and called upon the parties to fulfil in good faith the commitments entered into in it. The Council took that action, under Chapter VII of the Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 1031 (1995).

The Council authorized the Member States to take all necessary measures to implement and ensure compliance with Annex 1-A of the Peace Agreement. It stressed that the parties should be held equally responsible for compliance with that Annex, and should be equally subject to such enforcement action by IFOR as might be necessary to ensure its implementation and the protection of IFOR. The Council authorized the Member States to take all necessary

(more)

For information media—not an official record

measures, at the request of IFOR, either in defence of IFOR or to assist the Force in carrying out its mission, and recognized the right of the Force to take all necessary measures to defend itself. It demanded that the parties respect the security and freedom of movement of IFOR and other international personnel.

The Council decided that, with effect from the day on which the transfer of authority from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to IFOR took place, the authority to take certain measures conferred upon States by resolutions 770 (1992), 781 (1992), 816 (1993), 836 (1993), 844 (1993) and 958 (1994) should be terminated. Resolution 824 (1993) and subsequent resolutions regarding safe areas should also be terminated from the same date. The Council said it would review the authorization to establish IFOR with a view to terminating it one year after the transfer of authority from UNPROFOR.

The Council endorsed the establishment of a High Representative to monitor the civilian implementation of the Peace Agreement and mobilize, guide and coordinate the activities of the civilian organizations and agencies involved. It agreed the designation of Carl Bildt as High Representative.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today briefed the Security Council on his recent visits to West Africa and Europe. The briefing covered the Peace Implementation Conference held in London on 8 and 9 December and the signing of the Bosnian Peace Agreement in Paris yesterday. The Secretary-General later announced that he would hold a press conference at Headquarters on Monday.

Also on Monday, the Secretary-General will launch the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty in the Trusteeship Council Chamber. The General Assembly proclaimed 1996 as Poverty Eradication Year to catalyze action at all levels of society.

* * *

The General Assembly today decided that South Africa's unpaid assessments accruing to the regular and peace-keeping budgets during the period from 30 September 1974 to 23 June 1994 should be no longer due and payable. The Assembly took that action, by a resolution adopted without a vote, owing to the unique and exceptional circumstances pertaining to the resumption of South Africa's participation in its work following the elimination of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial democracy. It stated that today's action should under no circumstances be used as a precedent.

The representative of South Africa said the resolution exorcised the remaining legacy of apartheid -- its intentional withholding of payment of its

(more)

membership contributions for 20 years. He announced that his Government would make a voluntary contribution to the United Nations, to be specifically earmarked for peace-keeping operations in Africa.

Also today, the General Assembly adopted four resolutions on the question of Palestine, one on assistance to Nicaragua, and one on the situation in Haiti.

Yesterday, the Assembly called upon States to provide information and assistance for mine clearance, and to locate, remove, destroy or otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines, booby-traps and other devices in accordance with international law. In another action, the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. Both of those resolutions were adopted without a vote.

* * *

The Secretary-General's strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the years of 1995 to 2000 has made the advancement of women a policy priority of the United Nations, Special Political Adviser Rosario Green said today. She told the Women's International Forum that the plan was being implemented as part of the effort to introduce a new management culture. It involved changes in approaches, attitudes and ways of thinking among all levels of management and emphasized a culture of responsiveness, client-service orientation and gender sensitivity.

The General Assembly had lent its moral and political weight to the plan's three main targets, she noted. Of those, the target of an overall level of 35 per cent women among Professional staff before the end of 1995 was about to be reached. The two other targets were to have at least 25 per cent of senior-level positions held by women staff members before 1997, and an overall level of 50 per cent women by the year 2000.

The strategic plan included measures to assist in reaching the targets, the Special Adviser went on to say. Women applicants from other United Nations agencies were now being considered as internal candidates for vacancy announcements. Women also had the right to benefit from accumulated seniority, with consideration given to their years of service at previous grade levels, thereby accelerating their opportunities for promotion.

* * *

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will open an office in Sarajevo in March, at the request of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Programme will provide assistance related to governance and aid coordination and conduct rapid assessment studies of the country's needs.

(more)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) will play key roles in the repatriation of Bosnian refugees and the provision of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons. The World Bank, the European Union and USAID will provide financial support for the country's reconstruction.

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2045
18 December 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Secretary-General, in press conference at Headquarters, announces he will visit Kuwait soon; says international community must not allow Africa to become marginalized.
- * General Assembly welcomes OSCE role in Bosnian Peace Agreement and Basic Agreement on Eastern Slavonia; welcomes intensified cooperation between United Nations and OSCE.
- * Secretary-General expresses concern at reports of clashes between Eritrean and Yemeni forces; appeals to both sides to settle dispute peacefully through diplomatic negotiations.
- * Persistent poverty is morally wrong, Secretary-General says as he launches International Year for Eradication of Poverty; stresses need to implement Copenhagen Declaration.
- * UNCTAD's World Investment Report 1995 finds investment by transnational corporations has become most important mechanism for international economic integration.
- * Commission on Narcotic Drugs approves \$152 million initial budget for extrabudgetary global anti-drug efforts for 1996-1997.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today announced that he would travel to the Middle East in the next week. In a press conference at Headquarters, he told correspondents that he intended to visit Kuwait, and referred to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM).

The Secretary-General recalled that he had recently had two long meetings in Geneva with the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz. However, Iraq's position regarding Security Council resolution 986 (1995) had not changed. He expressed the hope that progress could be made towards the implementation of the "food for oil" resolution, citing the suffering of the Iraqi people. "The chances are limited," he said, "but we must try." He

(more)

For information media—not an official record

noted that 30 per cent of the revenues from any Iraqi oil sales were allocated to paying awards made by the United Nations Compensation Commission.

Turning to his recent visit to West Africa, Mr. Boutros-Ghali highlighted the situations in Sierra Leone and Liberia. He said there was a very negative perception that Africa was being marginalized -- that the international community paid inadequate attention to the continent's problems. He noted that Under-Secretary-General Chinmaya Gharekhan would be undertaking a goodwill mission concerning the situation in Western Sahara.

The Secretary-General stressed the importance of next February's elections in Sierra Leone. He said successful elections could transform the political atmosphere in a country and attract international assistance, citing the examples of Algeria and Cambodia. Yesterday's elections in Haiti would contribute to the climate of security in that country and help the Haitian Government obtain foreign investment for reconstruction.

Regarding Eastern Slavonia, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said it was up to the Security Council to decide what sort of force should be established, and his job to implement that decision. There were many issues involved: Should it be a multinational or a United Nations force? Should it be a small force of 2,000 troops -- as favoured by the Croatian Government -- or a 9,000-strong deployment, as favoured by the Serbs? Should it be based on Chapter VI or Chapter VII of the Charter? If the Council decided on a United Nations force, it would take time to deploy troops on the ground. The Organization still had to cope with a financial crisis -- it was owed some \$3 billion, including almost \$400 million for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

The recent extension of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) had only postponed the Rwandan problem for three months, the Secretary-General went on to say. There were still two million Rwandan refugees to be repatriated, but there was a "crisis of confidence" in the country. Many refugees did not want to return home as they feared a new genocide.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali concluded the press conference by calling attention to the world's "orphan situations," such as those in Tajikistan or Afghanistan, which received little or no attention. It might be possible to resolve those situations by deploying peace-keepers, but Member States were unwilling to pay to put troops on the ground. He added that the United Nations should function as an international think-tank, in order to solve the problems of tomorrow.

* * *

The General Assembly today welcomed the important role assigned to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in the Bosnian Peace Agreement, including supervising the preparation and conduct of free and fair elections. It also acknowledged the OSCE's important role in the

(more)

implementation of the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium.

By adopting a resolution without a vote on cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE, the Assembly also welcomed the intensified coordination between the two Organizations. It encouraged OSCE States to work to achieve peaceful settlement of disputes in the region through conflict prevention and crisis management.

* * *

The Secretary-General today expressed concern at reports of clashes over the weekend between Eritrean and Yemeni forces concerning disputed islands in the Red Sea's Bab al-Mandab channel. He said he was encouraged by reports that the two sides had agreed to end hostilities immediately and to establish a mechanism to monitor a cease-fire agreement.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali appealed to the two sides to settle their dispute peacefully through diplomatic negotiations. He added that he was ready to offer his good offices in the efforts to resolve the dispute peacefully.

* * *

Persistent poverty is not only inconsistent with social harmony and a durable political order, but is morally wrong, according to the Secretary-General. He made that comment at Headquarters today, as he launched the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.

The facts about poverty were well known, but were often ignored, he said. More than 1.3 billion people were struggling to survive on less than one dollar each day. Five years ago, the number was 300,000,000 less. In 1990, the per capita income of the wealthiest 20 per cent of the world's population was 60 times greater than that of the poorest 20 per cent. Thirty years earlier, it was only 30 times greater. Poverty was a major cause of violent crime, ethnic clashes and social disarray. Moreover, it caused inequality and thus undermined democracy.

The Secretary-General stressed the need for specific policies that would increase the access of the poor to productive resources; improve and widen opportunities to use their skills; and integrate specific welfare schemes with mainstream economic policy. Those policies must be defined not just at the national but at the local level. He urged every country to set in place next year a process for formulating a strategy for the eradication of absolute poverty as envisaged in the Copenhagen Declaration. Those countries that had a strategy in place should announce the target date for its realization.

* * *

(more)

International investment by transnational corporations (TNCs) has superseded trade to become the most important mechanism for international economic integration, according to the World Investment Report 1995: Transnational Corporations and Competitiveness. The Report, published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said rapidly rising levels of global investment by those corporations had significant implications for countries' economic performance.

The global sales of the 250,000 foreign affiliates of 40,000 TNCs exceed \$5 trillion, the Report noted. If the macroeconomic environment was right, foreign direct investment (FDI) would improve the competitiveness of transnational as well as indigenous firms. That investment would, in turn, contribute to the economic performance of countries, particularly those struggling to catch up.

Foreign direct investment -- projected at \$230 billion this year -- was coming not only from large TNCs, but also from smaller firms in developed and developing countries that were becoming transnational. While the top 100 TNCs were all based in developed countries, 15 per cent of world FDI outflows now originated in developing countries, suggesting a shift in the structure of FDI flows.

* * *

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs has approved an initial programme budget totalling \$152 million for extrabudgetary international drug control activities for the 1996-1997 biennium. It also approved a final budget of \$189 million for such projects for 1994-1995, as well as a performance report for that period totalling \$149 million.

The Commission took that action at the conclusion of a two-day reconvened session in Vienna. It was responding to budgetary proposals submitted by Giorgio Giacomelli, Executive-Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2046

19 December 1995

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- Security Council extends UNFICYP mandate until 30 June 1996; urges reduction in number of foreign troops and cut in defence spending in Cyprus.
- Security Council expresses strong support for Secretary-General's efforts to enhance United Nations capacity to plan, deploy and sustain peace-keeping operations.
- Security Council welcomes Secretary-General's recent report on Western Sahara as sound framework for efforts to accelerate and complete voter identification process.
- UNPROFOR to hand over military responsibility in Bosnia and Herzegovina to IFOR tomorrow; Secretary-General says peace-keepers did their job well.
- Haitian election took place in calm and orderly fashion without serious incidents of violence, OAS Election Observation Mission reports.
- Representatives of Greece and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia meet together with Envoy Cyrus Vance; agree to continue direct discussions in New York on 11 January.
- Guatemalan Government and URNG conclude final negotiating session for 1995 in Mexico City.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for a further period ending on 30 June 1996. By unanimously adopting resolution 1032 (1995), the Council called on the military authorities on both sides to ensure that no incidents occurred along the buffer zone and to extend their full cooperation to the Force. It requested the Secretary-General to keep under review the structure and strength of UNFICYP with a view to its possible restructuring and to present any new considerations he might have in that regard.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Council expressed concern about the continuing modernization and upgrading of military forces in the Republic of Cyprus and the lack of progress towards a significant reduction in the number of foreign troops there. It urged all concerned to commit themselves to such a reduction and to a reduction of defence spending in the Republic.

* * *

In a second meeting today, the Security Council expressed strong support for the Secretary-General's efforts to enhance the capacity of the United Nations for the planning, rapid deployment and reinforcement and logistical support of peace-keeping operations. In a Presidential statement, the Council noted with interest and appreciation the Secretary-General's report of 10 November on stand-by arrangements for peace-keeping.

The Council encouraged Member States not yet doing so to participate in the stand-by arrangements. It invited all States to provide information in as detailed a manner as possible on those elements which they were ready to make available to the United Nations. The Council also invited them to identify components, such as logistic support elements and sea airlift resources, presently under-represented in the arrangements.

The Council welcomed the Secretariat's initiative for the creation of a stand-by Headquarters component within the Mission Planning Service of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. It also joined with the Secretary-General in the establishment of partnerships between those troop-contributing countries that needed equipment for units that may be provided to the United Nations and those Governments ready to provide such equipment and other support.

* * *

In another action today, the Security Council reiterated its commitment to the holding, without further delay, of a free, fair and impartial referendum for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in accordance with the Settlement Plan. It welcomed the Secretary-General's report of 24 November as a sound framework for his ongoing efforts aimed at accelerating and completing the identification process. It welcomed further his decision to intensify consultations with the two parties in order to obtain their agreement to a plan to resolve differences hindering the timely completion of the identification process.

By unanimously adopting resolution 1033 (1995), the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to it on the results of those consultations on an urgent basis. In the event the consultations failed to reach agreement, he should provide the Council with options for its consideration, including a programme for the orderly withdrawal of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). The Council called on the two parties

(more)

to work with the Secretary-General and MINURSO in a spirit of genuine cooperation to implement all other aspects of the Settlement Plan, in accordance with relevant resolutions.

* * *

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) will hand over responsibility for military activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Implementation Force (IFOR) tomorrow. In a statement issued today, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said United Nations personnel had worked for more than three years to contain the Bosnian conflict and alleviate civilian suffering. They had not been sent to Bosnia to stop the war, but had been asked to shoulder the blame for the lack of peace.

United Nations troops had teamed up with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to deliver humanitarian supplies that kept the country alive, the Secretary-General noted. In the process, 110 peacekeepers had died, over 800 had been wounded and hundreds had been taken hostage. "They did their job; they did it well," he stressed. "This should not be forgotten."

The United Nations had given its full support to the incoming NATO-led troops in order to bring about a seamless transition, he continued. It would continue to work in Bosnia in the civilian sector as part of a determined international effort to make the peace process succeed. With wise leadership, the peoples of Bosnia could make their country whole again. In that effort, they could count on the continued support of the peoples of the United Nations.

* * *

Voting in the Haitian election on Sunday took place in a calm and orderly fashion without serious incidents of intimidation or violence, according to the Organization of American States Election Observation Mission (OAS/EOM). Deployed throughout Haiti, the Mission's 150 teams were able to visit over 20 per cent of all polling stations.

Haiti's Electoral Council had considerably improved the organization and management of the electoral process, the Mission noted. All the polling stations visited were open and receiving voters. Electoral agents appeared, in general, to have been well-trained and aware of the procedures required.

* * *

Pursuant to the Interim Accord of 13 September 1995, representatives of Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia met together on Friday with the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Cyrus Vance. The parties

(more)

exchanged views on various aspects related to the further implementation of the Interim Accord, in particular Article 5. The meeting took place in a cordial and businesslike atmosphere and lasted for several hours.

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Vance had met separately with each of the representatives. In response to his invitation, both agreed to continue their direct discussions under his auspices in New York on 11 January 1996.

* * *

The Guatemalan Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) have concluded their final negotiating session for the year in Mexico City, according to a United Nations spokesman. In order to facilitate the continuation of the negotiating process after the new Government takes office, the parties evaluated the work undertaken since April on "socioeconomic aspects and the agrarian situation". They produced a working document showing the points of convergence and divergence still existing on the issue.

Both parties underlined the significance of the agreements that had been signed and the importance of full compliance with them. They reiterated the value of the negotiating process as a means of ending the armed conflict and the need to ensure continuity next year until a final peace agreement was signed.

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2047
20 December 1995

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- Security Council considers measures to enhance arrangements for consultations and exchange of information with troop contributors.
- UNPROFOR transfers military responsibility in Bosnia to IFOR; Special Envoy Annan says achievements of United Nations operation must not be forgotten.
- Secretary-General welcomes cease-fire between Yemen and Eritrea and calls for restraint; reiterates willingness to offer good offices to end dispute over Hanish Island.
- General Assembly calls on States to put end to conflict in Afghanistan and to stop arms flows to all parties.
- Implementation of Abuja Agreement is behind schedule and further delays in Liberian peace process must be avoided, Secretary-General says.

* * *

The Security Council met today to examine the issue of consultations between it and troop-contributing countries. The Council was meeting in response to a letter signed by 34 States. The letter noted that a mechanism had been implemented earlier in the year to allow consultations among Council members, troop contributors and the Secretariat. It requested that the Council consider further measures to enhance arrangements for consultations and exchange of information with troop contributors.

Speakers stressed the need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Security Council's consultations with troop-contributing countries. They pointed out that peace-keeping operations could not exist without contributors. The Council acted on behalf of the Member States and should thus draw on their views when establishing an operation.

The Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation supported a flexible and pragmatic approach to strengthening the mechanism of consultations. The most important thing was not formalizing meetings as an

(more)

For information media—not an official record

end in itself, but taking into account the views of all concerned. He favoured the timely involvement of contributors before the Council took action on peace-keeping operations.

The Permanent Representative of Egypt proposed that the Security Council adopt a decision to regularize consultations with troop-contributing countries. Those consultations should be held well before the Council decided on any peace-keeping mandates, to allow delegations to inform their governments of all options available and to receive instructions.

* * *

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) today handed over military responsibility in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led Implementation Force (IFOR). The transfer took place in a ceremony at Sarajevo airport, after a short delay caused by bad weather. IFOR's main task is to support implementation of the Bosnian Peace Agreement, which was signed last week in Paris.

UNPROFOR was represented at today's ceremony by the Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, while IFOR was represented by NATO's Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces Southern Europe, Admiral Leighton Smith. The United Nations was represented by Kofi Annan, Special Envoy to the former Yugoslavia and to NATO.

In his address, Mr. Annan said all had shared the pain of a brutal and brutalizing war, although the people of the region had paid the highest price. However, it was important to remember the moral anguish of the peace-keepers who had witnessed atrocities and who had had neither the orders nor the ordnance to stop them. It was also necessary to remember the 110 peace-keepers who had died and the 800 who had been injured.

Timing and political will were essential to the success of peace-keeping operations, Mr. Annan continued. Peace-keeping did not exist in a vacuum -- it must go hand in hand with peacemaking and must at times yield to peace enforcement. The achievements of the United Nations operation should not be forgotten -- it had supported vital humanitarian efforts, mediated tirelessly between the parties and made possible the longest-running airlift in aviation history.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with the Permanent Representative of Yemen, Abdallah Saleh Al-Ashtal. They discussed preparations for the Secretary-General's forthcoming visit to Yemen, which was planned for some time ago.

(more)

Mr. Al-Ashtal briefed the Secretary-General on the latest developments in the conflict between Yemen and Eritrea over Hanish Island. The Council of Ministers in Sana'a had just issued a communique which made three demands: the release of all Yemeni prisoners of war; the total withdrawal of Yemeni forces from the island; and negotiations to delineate the maritime border between the two countries. Meanwhile, the Government of Yemen would welcome any good offices initiative by the Secretary-General aimed at settling the conflict peacefully.

The Secretary-General welcomed the cease-fire and called on the parties to exercise restraint. He reiterated his willingness to offer his good offices with a view to finding a peaceful resolution to the dispute.

* * *

The General Assembly has called on States to promote peace in Afghanistan, to stop the flow of arms to all parties and to put an end to the destructive conflict in that country. It took that action yesterday, by adopting a two-part resolution on the situation in Afghanistan without a vote.

The Assembly called on all States to respect Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and to refrain from interfering in its internal affairs. It called on all warring parties in Afghanistan to refrain from detaining foreign nationals, and urgently appealed to them to strictly respect all provisions of international humanitarian law. The Assembly further called on the parties not to hinder efforts to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to the Afghan population.

* * *

Implementation of the Abuja Agreement is behind schedule and every effort must be made to avoid further delays in the Liberian peace process, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the Security Council dated 18 December, he said critical aspects of the Agreement -- disarmament and demobilization -- were not likely to begin before January. While that was a cause for concern, the delay should be seen in the context of the implementation timetable, which might have underestimated the delays involved in deploying the necessary personnel and equipment.

The Secretary-General stressed that the Liberian factions must cooperate fully in implementing the Abuja Agreement. The first step in that process was the complete disengagement of forces. He urged the Liberian leaders to continue to demonstrate their commitment to the peace process by ensuring respect for the cease-fire and the timely implementation of the Agreement, especially disarmament and demobilization. He added that he would report on progress made in that regard before the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) expired on 31 January.

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2048
21 December 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Security Council condemns human rights violations committed in Srebrenica, Zepa, Banja Luka and Sanski Most earlier in year; notes substantial evidence Bosnian Serbs carried out mass executions.
- * Security Council establishes International Police Task Force and United Nations civilian office to help implement Bosnian Peace Agreement.
- * Security Council stresses need for full implementation of Lusaka Protocol; says Angolan parties must take concrete actions to put peace process on irreversible course.
- * Secretary-General to visit Kuwait, Yemen, Eritrea, Egypt, Italy and United Kingdom in coming weeks.
- * Fiftieth anniversary commemorative session highlighted international commitment to United Nations and to reform process, General Assembly President says.
- * Iraq promises complete cooperation with United Nations Special Commission and Security Council, UNSCOM Chairman reports.
- * Member States owe United Nations \$2.5 billion as of 16 December; \$580 million owed to regular budget and \$1.9 billion to peace-keeping and International Tribunals.

* * *

The Security Council today strongly condemned all violations of international humanitarian law and of human rights in the former Yugoslavia and demanded that all concerned comply fully with their obligations in that regard. It reiterated that all those who committed such violations would be held individually responsible for them. The Council particularly condemned the violations in the areas of Srebrenica, Zepa, Banja Luka and Sanski Most as

(more)

For information media—not an official record

described in the Secretary-General's report of 27 November and showing a consistent pattern of summary executions, rape and large-scale disappearances.

By unanimously adopting resolution 1034 (1995), the Council noted with the utmost concern the substantial evidence that a large number of men in the area of Srebrenica, and possibly in Bratunac and Potocari, had been summarily executed by Bosnian Serb and paramilitary forces. It condemned in the strongest terms the commission of such acts. The Council reiterated its demand that the Bosnian Serbs give immediate and unimpeded access to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other international agencies to persons displaced or missing from Srebrenica, Zepa, Banja Luka and Sanski Most who were within Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia.

The Council affirmed that the violations of humanitarian law and human rights in the areas in question from July to October must be fully investigated by the relevant United Nations and other international organizations and institutions. It noted that the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia had issued indictments against the Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic for their direct and individual responsibilities for the atrocities committed against the Bosnian Muslims of Srebrenica in July. The Council reiterated its demand that the Bosnian Serbs give immediate and unrestricted access to the areas in question, including for the purpose of investigation of the atrocities.

* * *

In another meeting today, the Security Council established for a period of one year a United Nations civilian police force known as the International Police Task Force (IPTF) to implement Annex 11 of the Bosnian Peace Agreement. It also established a United Nations civilian office with the responsibilities set out in the Secretary-General's report of 13 December, and endorsed the arrangements set out in the report. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 1035 (1995).

The Council noted with satisfaction that the IPTF and the United Nations civilian office would be under the authority of the Secretary-General and subject to coordination as appropriate by the High Representative. It requested the Secretary-General to submit reports about the work of the IPTF and the civilian office accordingly.

* * *

Also today, the Security Council reiterated its concern at the slow progress in implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. In a statement by its President, the Council stressed the importance of full implementation of all aspects of the Angolan peace process. It underlined that several important tasks remained incomplete, including the exchange of detailed military

(more)

information, the release of all prisoners, the redeployment of those Government troops near National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) quartering areas, and the resolution of the issue of mercenaries.

Noting that the deployment of United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) troops was nearly complete, the Council expressed disappointment at the slow pace in which the quartering process had proceeded. It called on UNITA and the Angolan Government to fulfil their commitments regarding the expeditious quartering and demobilization of former combatants, the quartering of the rapid reaction police, and the return of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) to the nearest barracks. The Council expressed deep concern at the delays in establishing modalities for the integration of the armed forces, and urged the parties to continue military talks without interruption.

The Council expressed grave concern about continued violations of the cease-fire and military offensives, particularly events in the north-west. It called on both parties to refrain from military activities or troop movements which led to resumed hostilities and to implement without delay the disengagement plan being prepared by UNAVEM III. It emphasized that Angolans themselves bore ultimate responsibility for restoring peace and stability in their country. The Council stressed that concrete actions were urgently needed to put the peace process on an irreversible course. It noted that continued support for UNAVEM III would depend on the extent to which the parties demonstrated their political will to achieve a lasting peace.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will leave New York this weekend for a three-day visit to Kuwait, a United Nations spokesman announced today. He will meet with the Emir of Kuwait, the Crown Prince, the President of the National Assembly and the Foreign Minister.

The Secretary-General will then visit Yemen for two days, where he will meet with the President and members of the Cabinet. He will travel on to Eritrea, having been invited to consult with the Government on the situation in the region, particularly the dispute with Yemen over Hanish Island. He will not be mediating in that dispute as he has not been asked to do so by both parties.

After Eritrea, the Secretary-General will pay a "semi-working" visit to Egypt. He will then travel to Italy, where he will meet with senior Government officials and participate in Italy's celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. He will also be received by the Pope.

On the last leg of his trip, Mr. Boutros-Ghali will go to London to participate in a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the first meeting of the General Assembly, which took place in January 1946. He will also meet

(more)

with the United Kingdom Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, before returning to New York around mid-January.

* * *

The General Assembly's special session commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations was a success not only because of the large number of Heads of State and government who participated in it, but because of their statements of support for the United Nations and for reform of the Organization, according to Assembly President Diogo Freitas do Amaral. He made that comment in a press conference at Headquarters today.

The President emphasized the importance of United Nations reform. That process was under way and five Working Groups would begin their substantive work on 15 January. The Working Group on an Agenda for Peace would consider the issue of preventive diplomacy and United Nations sanctions, while the Working Group on an Agenda for Development would review the Vice-Chairman's report published last Summer. The Working Group on the Security Council would consider the questions of the Council's enlargement and its methods of work. The Working Group on the financial situation would deal with assessments and arrears, while the Working Group on the strengthening of the Organization would address the report of the General Assembly and reform of Secretariat.

Disarmament had been another important issue during the fiftieth session, the President noted. The Assembly had dealt with the issues of a nuclear test-ban treaty, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the register of conventional arms. It had also established a Preparatory Committee to draft a convention for the creation of an international criminal court, an issue which had been discussed for some years. The Assembly had also discussed the follow-up to the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development and the Beijing Women's Conference. He highlighted the fact that 181 of the 185 Member States had become parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

* * *

Iraq's attitude towards cooperation with the United Nations Special Commission and the Security Council has changed from one where ultimatums with deadlines were delivered to one of promises of complete cooperation and transparency, without time-limits, according to the Executive Chairman of the Commission, Rolf Ekeus. In his latest report to the Council, dated 17 December, he said Iraq admitted that it had not taken all actions required of it under resolution 687 (1991). However, it now insisted that its declared policy was to do so as fast as possible.

In the last six months, Iraq had provided substantial quantities of documentation and was continuing to do so, Mr. Ekeus continued. The new information required further investigation and verification and it was not yet possible to give a firm assessment of the extent to which all elements of

(more)

Iraq's proscribed programmes had been fully disclosed. The Commission believed that many of the most important documents were still being withheld from it. When that documentation was made available, it should provide the speediest way of clearing up outstanding issues.

While the Commission welcomed Iraq's repeated assurances regarding full cooperation, there were still instances where full disclosure was not made and misleading statements were put forward, he noted. Likewise, information that should have been volunteered in support of a policy of complete transparency was not provided. The issue thus remained whether two policies were being pursued, one calling for full cooperation and the other for concealing proscribed activities as long as possible. The Commission hoped that the first would prevail and that the second would be abandoned. If Iraq could resolve those problems, it should be possible to clear up the remaining issues in the near future.

* * *

As of 16 December, Member States owed the United Nations a total of \$2.5 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, \$580 million was for assessments for the regular budget and \$1.9 billion was for peace-keeping operations and the International Tribunals.

Correction: The first paragraph on page 3 of the Daily Highlights of 20 December should have read as follows:

Mr. Al-Ashtal briefed the Secretary-General on the latest developments in the conflict between Yemen and Eritrea over Hanish Island. The Council of Ministers in Sana'a had just issued a communique which made three demands: the release of all Yemeni prisoners of war; the total withdrawal of Eritrean forces from the island; and negotiations to delineate the maritime border between the two countries. Meanwhile, the Government of Yemen would welcome any good offices initiative by the Secretary-General aimed at settling the conflict peacefully.

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2049
22 December 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Security Council demands Croatian Government lift any time-limits on return of refugees to reclaim their property.
- * Secretary-General expresses extreme concern at deteriorating situation in Burundi; says parties must not impede provision of humanitarian assistance.
- * Secretary-General welcomes resumption of peace talks between Israel and Syria.
- * United Nations ends 1995 with 50,000 peace-keepers deployed in 16 operations.

* * *

The Security Council today expressed grave concern that the Government of Croatia had ignored its call of 3 October to lift any time-limits on the return of refugees to reclaim their property. In a statement by its President, Sergey Lavrov (Russian Federation), the Council said the Croatian Government's 27 December time-limit constituted a virtually insurmountable obstacle for most Serb refugees. It demanded that the Government lift immediately any time-limit placed on the return of refugees to reclaim their property.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said he was extremely concerned about the deteriorating situation in Burundi. In recent weeks, violent confrontations in Bujumbura and neighbouring provinces had resulted in further movements of populations and increased suffering of innocent victims. Members of the humanitarian community in Burundi, including United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, had become targets of the unrest, seriously compromising the provision of assistance to those in need.

The Secretary-General called on all parties to honour the neutrality of humanitarian organizations, and not to impede the provision of humanitarian assistance. He also called on the Government of Burundi and all political

(more)

For information media—not an official record

parties to reaffirm their commitment to supporting humanitarian actions and to guaranteeing the safety of those providing assistance.

Meanwhile, Marc Faguy of Canada has been appointed as the Secretary-General's new Special Representative to Burundi. He will replace Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, who concluded his term of office at the end of October. Mr. Faguy will probably travel to Bujumbura late next week.

* * *

The Secretary-General today expressed great satisfaction at the resumption of peace talks between Israel and Syria, scheduled to begin on 27 December. He described that development as a very positive step on the road to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

* * *

The year 1995 saw some dramatic moments in United Nations peace-keeping, including some notable successes and some setbacks, a spokesman for the Organization said today. It started with 17 peace-keeping operations and ended with 16. Meanwhile, total troop strength declined from 69,000, from 77 countries, to around 50,000, from 80 countries. Some 90 peace-keepers were killed in 1995, down from 135 in 1994 and 203 in 1993. The total peace-keeping budget for the year was around \$3 billion, although outstanding contributions stood at around \$2 billion.

The United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) and the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) were successfully concluded in January and April, respectively. The United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) took over from the Multinational Force at the end of March, and the country remained safe and secure. Haiti held democratic legislative elections in mid-year and Presidential elections on 17 December.

The successes were somewhat overshadowed by the withdrawal of peace-keepers from Somalia in March, according to the spokesman. The United Nations had also faced tremendous difficulties in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, but the preventive deployment of peace-keepers in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continued to do a good job. Despite occasional setbacks, the Angolan peace process was cautiously progressing with United Nations assistance. The peace-keeping operation in Rwanda was slowly closing down, while there were some procedural difficulties with the identification process in Western Sahara.

* * *

Please note: This will be the last edition of the Daily Highlights for 1995. However, should circumstances warrant, Central News will issue a special Highlights next week. Happy holidays to all our readers.

* * * * *



Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2050

28 December 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

(Special Edition)

- * Secretary-General pays three-day official visit to Kuwait; meets with Amir at Al Bayan Palace and addresses UNIKOM staff.
- * FAO and WFP warn Democratic People's Republic of Korea will experience severe food shortages and possible starvation without substantial food aid.
- * United Nations launches global study on civilian-owned firearms, small arms trafficking and firearms regulations.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali began a three-day official visit to Kuwait on Tuesday. In a statement made at the airport, he said the main objective of his visit was to further strengthen relations between the United Nations and Kuwait.

The Secretary-General was received yesterday by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah at the Al Bayan Palace. He expressed his appreciation to the Amir for attending the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen last March, and the special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly, held at Headquarters in October. The Amir's participation in both summits demonstrated Kuwait's strong support for the United Nations.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali conducted a tour d'horizon of United Nations activities and peace-keeping operations, including the Organization's forthcoming role in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the situations in Rwanda, Burundi, Angola and Somalia; and developments in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Georgia. He also reviewed the recent elections in Haiti, which were conducted successfully with United Nations assistance.

The Secretary-General highlighted his continuing efforts to persuade Iraq to accept Security Council resolution 986 (1995). He hoped that there might be a change in the Iraqi Government's position, which would contribute to the alleviation of the suffering of innocent Iraqi women and children. He then reviewed the situation in Western Sahara and his efforts to persuade the

(more)

For information media—not an official record

parties to allow the identification process to move forward. The Secretary-General and the Amir also exchanged views on the dispute between Yemen and Eritrea over islands in the Red Sea.

The Amir thanked the United Nations for its role in the liberation of Kuwait, and expressed his appreciation for the Secretary-General's efforts to secure world peace and development.

The Secretary-General then met with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Saad Al Abdallah Al Salem Al Sabah, who welcomed him on behalf of the Kuwaiti Government and people. He also visited the National Assembly and met with its President, Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Sadoon, before addressing a joint meeting of the Committees for Foreign Affairs and for the Protection of Human Rights. The Secretary-General later met with the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber, and discussed regional and international affairs.

Today, Mr. Boutros-Ghali addressed the staff of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM). He said the Mission's mandate was typical of the new generation of United Nations missions. It had been established by the Security Council in 1991, under Chapter VII of the Charter, to monitor the Khor Abd Allah and the demilitarized zone, and to observe any hostile or potentially hostile action by one State against the other.

The Secretary-General will leave Kuwait for a two-day visit to Yemen, followed by a visit to Eritrea. He will then travel to Egypt, Italy and the United Kingdom, before returning to New York around mid-January.

* * *

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will experience severe food shortages and possible starvation in the coming months if it does not receive substantial food aid, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP). In a joint report released today, they said recent flooding had caused extensive damage to agriculture and infrastructure, exacerbating an already bad food supply situation.

The report estimated the total grain requirement of the People's Republic for 1996 at about 6 million tons. However, it pointed out that domestic production, imports and food aid already received would only cover 4.8 million tons. The FAO and WFP appealed for more funding for humanitarian relief operations in the country.

* * *

With the end of the cold-war era and a shift from inter-State conflict to insecurity resulting from violent crime, the United Nations is turning its attention to a class of armament that is killing more people than major

(more)